

A b s t r a c t

A method of reducing drilling fluid pressure during subsea
5 drilling, where drilling fluid is pumped down into a borehole
(15) and then flows back to a drilling rig (1) via the lined
and/or unlined sections of the borehole (15) and a liner
(14), wherein the drilling fluid pressure is controlled by
pumping drilling fluid out of the liner (14) at the seabed,
10 and where the liner (14) annulus (30) above the drilling
fluid is filled with a riser fluid having a density different
from that of the drilling fluid.

(Fig. 1)